



Trump criminal probes will proceed — even as he's candidate



Former President Donald Trump announces he is running for president for the third time as he smiles while speaking at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., Nov. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

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Trump criminal probes will proceed — even as he's candidate

From Front

By **ERIC TUCKER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's early announcement of his third White House bid won't shield the former president from the criminal investigations already confronting him as an ordinary citizen, leaving him legally and politically exposed as he seeks the 2024 Republican nomination. The Justice Department is pushing ahead with its probes. And with the midterm elections now mostly complete and the 2024 presidential campaign months away from beginning in earnest, federal prosecutors have plenty of time to continue their work even as Trump hits the campaign trail.

"I don't think the department is going to hesitate as a result of Trump nominating himself and anointing himself as the first candidate in the 2024 election," said former Justice Department prosecutor Michael Weinstein. "I just think they will see that as him trying to game the system as he's

done very successfully in the courts," and they're prepared for his "blowback." Trump enters the race facing federal investigations related to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election results and into the hoarding of top-secret government documents at his Florida estate — plus a separate state probe in Georgia. The Mar-a-Lago investigation has advanced especially swiftly, with prosecutors this month giving a close Trump ally immunity to secure his testimony before a federal grand jury. Justice Department lawyers in that probe say they have amassed evidence of potential crimes involving not only obstruction but also the willful retention of national defense information.

It remains unclear if anyone will be charged, as does the timetable for a decision. But former officials say the best way to ensure the outcome is seen as above reproach is to conduct a by-the-book investigation showing no special favor or ill treatment because of Trump's former high office. "The public will have the

most faith in what you're doing, and you will get the most successful results, if you treat Donald Trump like any other American," said Matthew Miller, who served as Justice Department spokesman under former Attorney General Eric Holder. Current Attorney General Merrick Garland has suggested as much, saying last summer in response to questions about Trump and the Jan. 6 investigation that "no person is above the law." Asked in a July television interview how a potential Trump candidacy might affect the department, Garland replied: "We will hold accountable anyone who is criminally responsible for attempting to interfere with the transfer — legitimate, lawful transfer — of power from one administration to the next." Investigating any elected official, or candidate for office, almost always invites political speculation. Justice Department protocol cautions prosecutors against taking overt action in the direct run-up to an election, but that's more a standard convention than



Former President Donald Trump waves after announcing he is running for president for the third time at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

a hard-and-fast rule. And the 2024 presidential contest is two years away. Still, it's not easy to investigate a former president or current candidate. That's especially true in the case of Trump, who spent his presidency assailing his own Justice Department and haranguing attorneys general he himself had appointed. He has already lambasted the FBI for searching Mar-a-Lago in August, using the episode to raise funds from supporters. Now, with his candidacy official, he and his supporters will try to re-

frame the narrative of the investigation as political persecution by a Democratic administration that fears him for 2024.

In fact, one risk for Democrats is that Trump — who during his announcement Tuesday declared himself "a victim" — could galvanize his supporters anew with that argument. On the other hand, the results of last week's midterm elections suggest he may be more politically vulnerable than many had thought, including in his Republican Party. □



Cuban vice-Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Fernandez de Cossío speaks during a press conference in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

By **MEGAN JANETSKY**
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Following a series of talks on migration with the Biden administration, Cuba said Tuesday that it will receive deportation flights from the United States that had been stalled in the pandemic — and said it was open to continuing dialogue with

Washington. The agreement comes amid one of the largest migrations from Cuba to the U.S. in decades. In October, Cubans replaced Venezuelans as the second most numerous nationality after Mexicans arriving at the border. U.S. authorities stopped Cubans 28,848 times, up 10% from the previous month,

Migration talks mark progress in tense U.S.-Cuba relations

U.S. Customs and Border Protection data shows. That exodus is fueled by deepening and compounding crises in the Caribbean nation, which suffers from shortages of basic goods and lengthy power outages. The two governments have had a tense relationship for 60 years — and that grew more hostile when former President Donald Trump tightened American sanctions on the island.

But migration appears to have become a meeting point for Cuba and the Biden administration, which held talks in Havana for the second time in the span of a week on Tuesday.

"It was a useful meeting and it contributed to the mutual objective, committed to achieving a safe,

regular and ordered migration," said Cuba's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Cossío in a news conference Tuesday.

Cossío added there was "an obvious need" for two countries so geographically close to maintain a dialogue despite their differences.

Leading the U.S. delegation was Emily Mendrala, deputy assistant secretary for Western Hemisphere affairs.

The State Department also expressed optimism about cooperation in a brief release Tuesday afternoon, acknowledging the meeting.

"Engaging in these talks underscores our commitment to pursuing constructive discussions with the government of Cuba where ap-

propriate to advance U.S. interests," the statement said. The talks follow a number of friendly — or at least non-hostile — exchanges between the two governments in recent months. The U.S. government recently announced it would resume visa and consular services on the island in January. Those had been stalled after a series of health incidents involving U.S. diplomats starting in 2017.

When Hurricane Ian ravaged the island in September, the Biden administration announced it would provide \$2 million for recovery efforts.

In August, the administration also provided 43 fire suits to Cuba following the blaze in an oil storage facility. □

Judge orders end to Trump-era asylum restrictions at border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday ordered the Biden administration to lift Trump-era asylum restrictions that have been a cornerstone of border enforcement since the beginning of COVID-19.

U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled in Washington that enforcement must end immediately for families and single adults, calling the ban "arbitrary and capricious." The administration has not applied it to children traveling alone.

Within hours, the Justice Department asked the judge to let the order take effect Dec. 21, giving it five weeks to prepare. Plaintiffs including the American Civil Liberties Union didn't oppose the delay.

"This transition period is critical to ensuring that (the Department of Homeland Security) can continue to carry out its mission to secure the Nation's borders and to conduct its border operations in an orderly fashion," government attorneys wrote.

Sullivan, who was appointed by President Bill Clinton, wrote in a 49-page ruling that authorities failed to consider the impact on migrants and possible alternatives.

The ruling appears to conflict with another in May by a federal judge in Louisiana that kept the asylum restrictions.

If Sullivan's ruling stands, it would upend border enforcement. Migrants have been expelled from the United States more than 2.4 million times since the rule took effect in March 2020, denying migrants rights to seek asylum under U.S. and international law on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The practice was authorized under Title 42 of a broader 1944 law covering public health.

Before the judge in Louisiana kept the ban in place in May, U.S. officials said they were planning for as many as 18,000 migrants a day under the most challenging scenario, a stag-

gering number. In May, migrants were stopped an average of 7,800 times a day, the highest of Joe Biden's presidency.

Immigration advocacy groups have pressed hard to end Title 42, but more moderate Democrats, including U.S. Sens. Mark Kelly of Arizona and Raphael Warnock of Georgia, wanted it to stay when the administration tried to lift it in May.

The ban has been unevenly enforced by nationality, falling largely on migrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — in addition to Mexicans — because Mexico allows them to be returned from the United States. Last month, Mexico began accepting Venezuelans who are expelled from the United States under Title 42, causing a sharp drop in Venezuelans seeking asylum at the U.S. border.

Nationalities that are less likely to be subject to Title 42 have become a growing presence at the border, confident they will be released in the United States to pursue their immigration cases. In October, Cubans were the second-largest nationality at the border after Mexicans, followed by Venezuelans and Nicaraguans.

The Homeland Security Department said it would use the next five weeks to "prepare for an orderly transition to new policies at the border."

"We continue to work with countries throughout the Western Hemisphere to take enforcement actions against the smuggling networks that entice migrants to take the dangerous and often deadly journey to our land borders and to address the root causes of irregular migration that are challenging our hemisphere as a whole," the department said.

ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt said Sullivan's decision renders the Louisiana ruling moot.

"This is an enormous victory for desperate asylum seekers who have been barred from even getting a hear-



Four men from Cuba try to keep warm after crossing the border from Mexico and surrendering to authorities to apply for asylum on Nov. 3, 2022, near Yuma, Ariz.

Associated Press

ing because of the misuse of public laws," Gelernt said. "This ruling hopefully puts an end to this horrendous period in U.S. history in which we abandoned our solemn commitment to provide refuge to those

facing persecution."

Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy counsel for the American Immigration Council, an immigrant advocacy group, distinguished Sullivan's ruling from the one by U.S. District

Judge Robert Summerhays in Louisiana, an appointee of President Donald Trump, which applied only to how the Biden administration tried to end Title 42. Sullivan found the entire rule invalid. □



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Report: At least 32 transgender people killed in U.S. in 2022

By **HANNAH SCHOENBAUM**
Associated Press/Report for America

At least 32 transgender and gender-nonconforming people have been killed in the United States in 2022, the Human Rights Campaign announced Wednesday in its annual report ahead of the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Transgender people of color account for 81% of known victims this year, and 59% were Black. Trans women are disproportionately represented, as they have been in years past, also comprising 81% of the deaths recorded at the time of publication.

The Human Rights Campaign has documented at least 302 violent deaths of transgender and gender-nonconforming people since the LGBTQ advocacy organization began tracking such fatalities in 2013 the same year the FBI began tracking hate crimes against transgender people. The victims have been "overwhelmingly Black, under 35 and killed with a firearm," the report states.

Black transgender women, such as Shawmayne Giselle Marie, a 27-year-old nursing assistant killed in June in Gulfport, Mississippi, com-



A demonstrator holds up a sign during a march to mark International Transgender Day of Visibility in Lisbon, March 31, 2022.

prise 63% of all recorded victims since 2013.

This week is Transgender Awareness Week and leads into Sunday's Transgender Day of Remembrance, an international observance honoring those killed by anti-transgender violence and drawing attention to the threats trans people face. The Human Rights Campaign notes that the number of fatalities is likely an undercount because the deaths of trans people often go unreported or the victims are misgendered in

news or police reports. The data does not encompass those who died by suicide, which has also been documented at significantly higher rates among LGBTQ people than in the general population.

The report found that 15 trans people have been killed by police or while incarcerated in jails, prisons or ICE detention centers since 2013, including two this year.

Other victims were killed by a person they knew. Since 2013, nearly one-fifth of

those whose killer is known were killed by an intimate partner. Among them is Ray Muscat, 26, who was fatally shot by his girlfriend in May in Michigan.

Fewer deaths have been reported than at the time of the publication of last year's report 47. In 2021, the Human Rights Campaign recorded its highest total of fatal violence against trans and gender-nonconforming people, with 57 deaths by the year's end.

Shoshana Goldberg, public education and research di-

rector for the HRC Foundation, said this year's report comes amid the largest recorded wave of anti-trans legislation at the state level, which she said has largely been fueled by disinformation and stigma.

Some bills sought to limit discussion of LGBTQ topics in schools, restrict gender-affirming health care, and prevent transgender children from playing on sports teams or using bathrooms that align with their gender identities.

Such bills, she said, fuel anti-GTQ sentiment by painting queer and transgender people as a risk to children and communities.

States have enacted 25 anti-LGBTQ bills so far this year, including 17 directed at transgender people, according to the report.

More than 145 anti-transgender bills have been introduced across 34 states, marking the largest number recorded by the Human Rights Campaign in a state legislative session.

Although the bills do not directly encourage violence against LGBTQ people, Goldberg said, they enforce a culture of bias that is often exacerbated by racism and sexism and can lead to an increased risk of fatal violence. □

Wrong way vehicle hit 22 LA County sheriff's recruits on run

WHITTIER, Calif. (AP) — A vehicle that struck 22 Los Angeles County sheriff's recruits on a training run around dawn Wednesday, critically injuring at least five of them, was traveling on the wrong side of the road just before the crash, authorities said. A total of 23 people were injured, including the driver, said Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesperson Capt. Sheila Kelliher.

In addition to the five who were critically injured, there were four with moderate injuries and 14 with minor injuries. The driver was among those with minor injuries, she said.

"I am personally heart sick," Los Angeles County Super-

visor Janice Hahn said, adding that she was focusing on the cadets who were injured to pull through this.

The crash occurred just before 6:30 a.m. in suburban Whittier, where a training academy is located.

California Highway Pa-



Two investigators stand next to a mangled SUV that struck Los Angeles County sheriff's recruits in Whittier, Calif., Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

trol Assistant Chief Charlie Sampson said about 75 recruits were running in formation northbound in the street when the southbound vehicle veered into the opposing lane and struck the victims.

Sampson identified the driver a 22-year-old man from suburban Diamond Bar but withheld his name. Sampson said the driver was cooperating with investigators. All possibilities, ranging from an intentional act to impaired driving, will be investigated, he said. Sampson said he did not have results of a field sobriety test.

TV news helicopter broadcasts showed a large response of firefighters and

ambulances, an SUV with severe front-end damage straddling a toppled pole on a sidewalk, as well as numerous individuals nearby in uniform workout clothes. Close by was also a 25 mph (40 kph) speed limit sign.

Running shoes and a backpack were strewn around the scene.

"Our hearts are with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's recruits injured this morning while training to serve their communities," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement. "Jennifer and I send our best wishes for their recovery and stand with their loved ones and colleagues at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department during this difficult time." □

MI5 spy chief says Russia, China, Iran top threat list to UK

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain faces major security threats from the trio of Russia, China and Iran, which all use coercion, intimidation and even violence on foreign soil to pursue their interests, the U.K.'s domestic intelligence chief said Wednesday.

Ken McCallum, director-general of MI5, added to mounting warnings from British authorities about Russia's aggression and China's growing assertiveness. But he singled out Iran as the state "which most frequently crosses into terrorism," saying U.K. authorities have uncovered at least 10 "potential threats" this year to "kidnap or even kill British or U.K.-based individuals perceived as enemies of the regime." He said Iran's intelligence services "are prepared to take reckless action" against opponents, both on Western soil and by luring people to Iran.

Last week, the U.K. government summoned Tehran's top diplomat in London for a dressing-down, accusing the Islamic republic of threatening journalists working in Britain.



MI5 Director General, Ken McCallum, gives a speech at Thames House in central London, Wednesday Nov. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

U.K.-based Farsi-language satellite news channel Iran International said British police had warned two of its journalists about "an imminent, credible and significant risk to their lives and those of their families."

In a speech outlining the major threats to the U.K. from both hostile states and terror groups, McCallum said there is a risk Russia, China and Iran could help one another, "amplifying their strengths."

"We are facing adversaries who have massive scale and are not squeamish

about the tactics they deploy," he said. He said Russia's espionage capabilities had been dealt a "significant strategic blow" since the invasion of Ukraine from the expulsion of more than 400 spies working under diplomatic cover at Russian missions in Europe. He said Britain has expelled 23 in recent years, and has refused visas for more than 100 other suspected Russian spies posing as diplomats. But, he said, British spies are still facing a "Russian covert toolkit" that includes assassination attempts, cyberat-

tacks, disinformation, espionage and interfering with democracy.

"The U.K. must be ready for Russian aggression for years to come," he said.

McCallum cast China as an even longer-term problem, saying "the activities of the Chinese Communist Party pose the most game-changing strategic challenge to the U.K."

Using a sports analogy, McCallum said "Russia thinks nothing of throwing an elbow in the face and routinely cheats to get its way." □

Kenya's president dismisses suggestions of unlimited terms

By EVELYNE MUSAMBI

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenyan President William Ruto urged lawmakers not to remove presidential terms limits from the coun-

try's constitution, dismissing comments by a legislator that there should be no such limits on a capable leader.

Kenya's constitution says a president can only serve for

two terms, and many Kenyans have been eager to hear Ruto's position since talk of removing term limits started last week.

Ruto succeeded former president Uhuru Kenyatta after winning hotly contested elections. He was inaugurated in September.

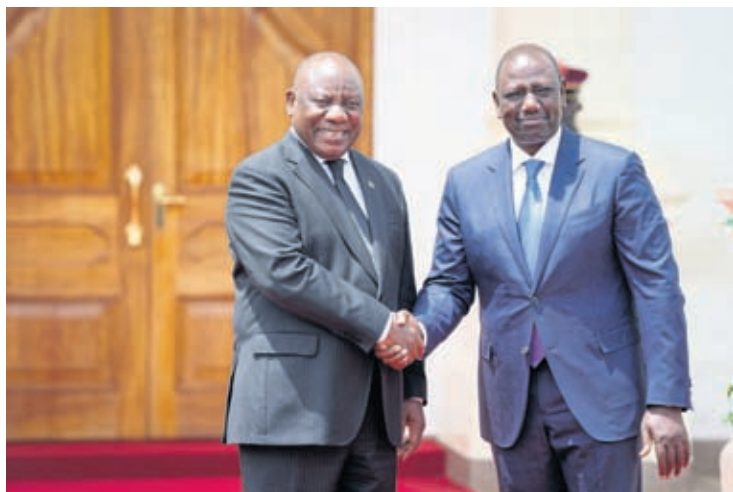
Ruto's party, the United Democratic Alliance, on Wednesday held a meeting of its lawmakers during which the president urged them to focus on laws that could improve the lives of ordinary Kenyans.

He asked them to stop "pushing for selfish and self-serving legislation like changing the Constitution to remove term limits," according to local media outlets.

The ruling party's chairperson, Johnstone Muthama,

denied there was a plan to amend the constitution in favor of Ruto after heavy criticism from the opposition parties.

Kenya's democracy has evolved over the years since the former British colony became independent in 1963. For several years it was a de-facto one-party state and then was officially a one-party state from 1982 until 1992, when multiparty democracy was adopted. Term limits on the presidency are widely considered sacrosanct, contributing to the view of Kenya as a beacon of stability in the East African region. Many countries in the region and other parts of Africa have abolished presidential term limits, allowing leaders to stay in power for long periods. □



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, left, shakes hands with Kenya's President William Ruto, right, after his arrival for a bilateral visit at State House in Nairobi, Kenya Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022.

Associated Press

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8 years later, Dutch judges to pass verdicts in MH17 trial

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Dutch judges are set to deliver their verdict Thursday in the trial in absentia of three Russians and a Ukrainian over their alleged roles in the 2014 downing of a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet and the deaths of all 298 people on board.

The judgment will come more than eight years after the airliner traveling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was shot down over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014, during a conflict between pro-Russia separatists and Ukrainian forces.

A painstaking international investigation established that a Buk missile fired from a launcher that was trucked into Ukrainian rebel-held territory from a Russian military base and then driven back to Russia caused flight MH17 to explode and crash.

Investigators say it came from the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade, a unit of the Russian armed forces based in the Russian city of Kursk. During the trial, prosecutors led judges through



People inspect the crash site of a passenger plane near the village of Grabovo, Ukraine, on July 17, 2014.

thousands of pages of evidence to support their case, including pieces of metal recovered from the bodies of victims, tapped phone conversations and extensive social media posts and other open-source data to track the movements of the Buk system before and after MH17 was destroyed.

They have demanded life sentences for all four sus-

pects, the highest possible punishment under Dutch law. Moscow and defense lawyers for one of the suspects have repeatedly cast doubt on the findings and steadfastly denied any involvement in the downing of MH17. The trial is culminating amid geopolitical shockwaves from Russia's nearly nine-month invasion of Ukraine. In late September, Moscow illegally

annexed parts of eastern Ukraine, including where the wreckage of MH17 landed in 2014.

Some families of the people who died anticipated Thursday's scheduled verdict for what the court might say about any role Russia played in bringing down MH17. None of the four defendants is accused of firing the missile that blew up the Boeing 777 in

Associated Press

midair and none of whom appeared in the Netherlands for trial.

Piet Ploeg, who lost his brother Alex, Alex's wife, Edith, and their son Robert as they flew to a vacation on the Indonesian island of Bali, said earlier this week that "Russia isn't standing trial, but effectively it is standing trial." He said it is as important to him that "the court says something about the role of Russia" as well as about the role of the four suspects. The only one of the suspects represented by lawyers during the trial, Oleg Pulatov, has insisted he is innocent. They suggested alternative possibilities, including that Ukrainian forces accidentally shot down the plane using a Buk missile. Pulatov's defense team also sought to discredit evidence and argued he didn't get a fair trial.

"What matters to me is that the truth is revealed. It's important for me that my country is not blamed for this tragedy," Pulatov said in a video message to judges in June as the presentation of evidence wrapped up. □

Austria, Hungary, Serbia hold top-level meeting on migration

By **JOVANA GEC**

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) —

Austria, Hungary and Serbia on Wednesday held another top-level meeting dedicated to curbing migration, including by sending more than 100 police officers, vehicles equipped with night vision cameras and drones to the border with North Macedonia.

Austria and Hungary also pledged to help Serbia organize deportations by plane of people who come to the Balkan nation from so-called safe countries of origin and aren't eligible for asylum in the member states of the European Union or in Serbia, officials said.

"We have come to the point where individual EU countries are looking for

new forms of partnership outside what is possible in the EU," Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said. "The EU's asylum system has failed."

Officials from Austria, Hungary and Serbia already held a similar meeting weeks ago and lower-level talks have been held in the meantime. The initiative came after countries reported a significant increase in the numbers of migrants moving along the so-called Balkan route.

Migrants come into Serbia from North Macedonia and Bulgaria after arriving there from Turkey and Greece. From Serbia, people who are trying to reach Western Europe proceed toward the neighboring EU member nations Hungary, Romania or Croatia and on

further west from there. Experts have said that the so-called Balkan land route of migration gets more active in bad weather when the already perilous crossings over the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas become even more dangerous. Most migrants come from Afghanistan and Syria, but there are also people fleeing poverty and violence in Africa or Asia. Serbia has been under pressure also to revoke its relaxed visa system with countries in Asia and Africa that have become a source of migration. President Aleksandar Vucic said that after abolishing visa-free rules with Tunisia and Burundi, Belgrade will change regulations with two more countries by the end of the year.

"We agreed to ... engage a higher number of policemen on the border with North Macedonia and substantial equipment, includ-

ing cars with thermal vision cameras in order to try to move the defense line toward the south," Vucic said. □



Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, right, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, center, and Austria's Chancellor Karl Nehammer shake hands after a press conference after their trilateral meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

San Nicolas must remain a different product compared to other tourist areas



ORANJESTAD – Yesterday morning, San Nicolas Business Association (SNBA) together with Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and Aruba Excellence Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bring continuation to the development in San Nicolas.

The signing of the MOU represents a great opportunity for San Nicolas as it involves extension of the development currently taking place in the area. New president of SNBA, Errol de Freitas pointed out that the union between these organizations is very important to achieve this development.

He said that there are currently three ongoing projects in Sero Colorado, but there is also the improvement of the entire area of San Nicolas which will take place in the short term. "For us, the MOU means an opportunity to partner with these two organizations for positive development for San Nicolas. We are very proud of this", De Freitas commented.

Ronella Croes, CEO of ATA said that this process took years and in the middle of it, the pandemic came, which didn't help. ATA as member of SNBA thanked everyone for their collaboration.

Recently, ATA and SNBA had a meeting to continue the conversation on different topics, for example,

Croes said that "it is not a secret that SNBA is also very involved in different developments going on right now." Often ATA will give an opinion on projects, but also they are trying to involve the community before executing certain projects.

The MOU is basically the formalization of various components, a topic regarding branding. Already before the pandemic, Croes said, they were working on a specific branding identifying San Nicolas. There is Aruba as an image and brand, but they think that San Nicolas – according to Forbes Magazine, is "The Art Capital for the Caribbean". This also demands from ATA not only to continue the trajectory of giving content to this brand, but also to work on a separate branding from Aruba, to position San Nicolas differently.

"We not only see it as a part of Aruba and a city that enhances the experience, but it can even convert into a point of attraction to decide to visit Aruba, and this is tied to the MOU", Croes commented.

They will continue focusing on informing our visitors through the Visitor Information Center, but also through signs, monumental and cultural attributes.

Croes said that a very important part is recognizing also the other organizations that have a key role in the development of the prod-

uct. Think here about the infrastructural aspect, which is outlined in the MOU.

She also mentioned that the ministry of Tourism is also very involved in the projects in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Department of Infrastructure and Planning as key organizations for these projects.

In the project at Sero Colorado, in which ATA is integrally involved, there are weekly works taking place to achieve results.

ATA is also involved in the restoration of the pier at Rodgers Beach and recently the steps at Rodgers beach, which were fixed and will get an artistic touch as well. 2023 will see a continuation of these projects for which SNBA is very important.

The cultural aspect is also included in the MOU. Art Fair, a cultural event, also involves infrastructure, according to Croes, because



of all the murals and the activities during those days that are visible in the area. "It is the intention of ATA to continue with this, but also to think on how ATA also started the Carubbian festival which later became Island Fest, which is also on schedule for next year regarding ways to bring more movement and culture in San Nicolas."

Education and training is currently in preparation to improve the work of providing information in the tourism sector, which is also tied to projects in the pipeline. Thought is given to accommodation but also the policy that is desired for San Nicolas. In this regard, a few years ago Aruba Excellence Foundation was established. This foundation encompasses Aruba Certification Program (ACP), among others. Croes said that Aruba Excellence Foundation was included in the MOU to explore possibilities to enhance San Nicolas, but also to explore specific training that will be needed seeing the development of San Nicolas.

"San Nicolas needs to re-

main as a different product compared to Palm Beach – to mention an area that is specifically very touristic. This is precisely what we want to see for San Nicolas, and this can require another type of training, focusing more on cultural aspects but also a bit deeper in the history of San Nicolas and its surroundings", Croes said.

Shadey Figaroa, president of supervisory board of Aruba Excellence Foundation, said that she advocates a good and correct education for the community of Aruba, particularly those in the hotel industry, the service industry. "It is very important for us that our community is well educated on the history of Aruba and all the ongoing projects in San Nicolas. We are very happy that together with ATA and SNBA we can sign an MOU to provide the necessary training for commerce and the community of San Nicolas. Our goal is to have the whole of San Nicolas 100% ACP Certified, and we hope that we can achieve that together with the parties", she said. □





Bowls Noodle Bar recently opened at their new location at The Village, near the High Rise Hotels. To celebrate, they are launching their new Happy Hour from 9pm to 11pm every day.

Before the pandemic, Bowls Noodle Bar opened at the Hyatt by the airport, and was in the process of opening a second location at The Village when the pandemic hit. Due to the consequences of the pandemic, they decided to close the restaurant by the airport and open their new location at The Village. Their new location has been open for about six months to great results.

Bowls Noodle Bar invites you to try their November Special

At The Village, night time is the best time. This is why they are now offering a daily Happy Hour, from 9pm to 11pm. It includes \$3 beer and \$5 cocktails.

Their cocktails are made in-house with a unique fusion of Asian flavors, for example, the popular purple Ube Mojito, with the flavor of traditional Ube, a Japanese dessert; the Blue Samurai with ginger flavor; and the refreshing Fruity Blossoms, with a flavor encompassing the Sakura, the famous Japanese Cherry Blossoms. You can try all these for only \$5 each during Happy Hour.

Fusion is at the core of the unique flavors of Bowls Noodle Bar, and this is expressed beautifully in their traditional Japanese soups. They are the only restaurant in Aruba that has most of the noodles traditionally used, Udon, Ramen, and Rice noodles. Ramen noodles, served fresh, are a surprising flavor for those who are used to dried ramen noodles. They also have Jasmine rice for the rice bowls.

Their authentic soups are the highlight and star. Chef Warren explains that there are four main components to the soup: the broth, the noodles, tare, and the oil, and these are very important for the traditional Japanese soups. At Bowls Noodle Bar, they have a wide variety of flavors to cater to every taste, like the famous Pork Chashu. It comes with fresh ramen noodles, and it's the pride of Bowls Noodle Bar. Chef Warren says that the broth for this soup takes two to three days to make, and is made in-house, with fresh and delicious ingredients. They also cater to vegetarians and vegans, with various options on the menu like tofu mushroom soup, vegetable gyoza, wonton, and fresh kimchi fermented at the restaurant.



The wok concept also allows you to create your own unique dish, choosing your base, protein, vegetables and sauce.

Origin

The founders of Bowls Noodle Bar, Dexter Moreno and his partner Lai, opened their first location on Curaçao. They traveled to Japan to study Japanese Cuisine, and they fell in love with Japanese soup. Lai's parents are Chinese, and this is the start of the Asian-fusion flavors that are both surprising and delectable, combining Japanese, Chinese and even some Korean cuisine. Chef Warren was trained in these traditional flavors by the founders themselves.

They came to Aruba where Dexter approached some ex-colleagues in the industry to open a location on the island, and with a local team, opened Bowls Noodle Bar Aruba with a more extensive menu.

And for the month of November Bowls Noodle Bar has created a November Special

Mondays you can get 20% off on your entire bill,
Tuesdays is Dollar to Florins on all food, beers and wines,
Wednesday you can get 20% off on Noodle Soups,
Thursday is 20% off on Stir Fry and
Friday is 20% off on Izakaya.

Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 5pm – 11:30pm; Friday and Saturday 5pm – 12pm; and Sunday 5pm – 11:30pm. Come visit for great atmosphere, delicious flavors, and a Happy Hour to remember! ☐

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Every Monday

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Every Tuesday
on all the food, beers & wines

20% Off on Noodle Soups
Every Wednesday

20% Off on Stir Fry
Every Thursday

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Marine Spatial Planning Workshop initiates the conversation about marine resource planning

ORANJESTAD - On November 15, 2022, the Ministry of Nature organized a Marine Spatial Planning workshop.

The workshop's objective is to highlight the importance of sustainable planning for our resources, like the ocean surrounding our island. The Ministers and Members of Parliament had the opportunity to come together and open the discussion for the future national policies for Aruba.

An expert from the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Netherlands in collaboration with UNESCO created the workshop Marine Spatial Planning. The expert came to Aruba on his own, provided all material pro bono, and guided those responsible for policy-making in Aruba.

During the workshop, the participants learned more about Marine Spatial Planning. They discussed the Maritime Economy, Energy Transition, and the effects of climate change.

This workshop is a continuation of the efforts by the Ministry of Nature to reorganize marine planning. The first step was to create an inventory of water sports. The ministry also works on introducing a sustainable policy for the fishery, starting a national platform for fishermen, and adjusting, among others, the laws relevant to spearfishing.

Through the Marine Spatial Planning workshop, they can focus on the need for more changes in responsible planning.

On Wednesday, November 16, 2022, there will be another, more extensive workshop with multiple local stakeholders in the field of marine management, namely Santa Rosa, ATA, National Arikok Park, and the DNM.

The Minister of Nature, Ursell Arends, is grateful to all participants and the Dutch expert who contributed to a more sustainable marine policy in Aruba. □





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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that

indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-

Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But

eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present

location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.



The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.☐

Youth competition “Art Gang Aruba” celebrated their 15th anniversary

ORANJESTAD – Last week at the Cas di Cultura Aruba the successful final of the youth competition “Gang di Arte” – Art Gang - took place, celebrating their 15th anniversary.

All participants had to come up with a creative and original work with the central theme: Hidden Talents. A total of 15 groups participated in the pre-final that took place during the Aruba Art Fair during the Performance Art Program dedicated to Youth, a successful activity that took place during that weekend, when the jury selected 10 groups to go on to the final.

The participants that qualified for the final were:

1. Alysa Brete with Arte Visual & Fotografia;
2. Naomi Arrindell with Poesia;
3. Dance group The Fearless Four with Shannee Toussaint, Beverley Elliott, Sheri Godet and Xian-drény Donata;
4. Gonzalez Duo (Alakina Gonzalez Lujan / Alejandro Gonzalez Lujan) with guitar and keyboard, accompanied by Denzel Tromp and Andrew Webb;
5. Rap duo Zef Kerr & Brandon Kerr;
6. Guicel Krozendijk with spoken word and rock singing;
7. Theatre group The Fantastic Five; Juliana Rowe, Marie Jayne Vriend, Abigail Evertsz, Naomi Arrinde and Kaiden Paternina;
8. Guizza Steenvoorde with Solo Performance with spoken word and dance;
9. Dance and rap group I-LEDM; Dimitri Leonora, Isdell Hyacinme, Lenz Julien and Amylenne Roga;
10. Dance group No Image Dance Crew; Shäindra Ashby, Shantal Arzuza Avila, Arzuliane Arzuza Avil, Dinaly Yarzagaray and Alysa Brete.

At the beginning of the activity after a great dance opening presented by the participants. The youth project Op Zoek Naar Boy (Searching for Boy) presented by Catharsis Productions, a school project in cooperation with Filomena College Mavo, Colegio San Antonio, Muchila Creativo, Monumenten Fonds and the Department of Culture of Aruba, dedicated to Aruban hero, Boy Ecury.

Special guest was Stephanie Quant launchign her latest production.

During the event there were also guests from Bonaire: Sulainie Martis and Reginald de Palm representing Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire, Section of Culture, Art and Literature; and Mr. Bernhard Comproe representing ACE Foundation. The reason for the presence of guests from Bonaire is that they also organize Art Gang and the winners of Art Gang in Aruba will represent our island in Bonaire in May of 2023.

The top five resulting from the evening was:

Fifth place Guizza Steenvoorde.

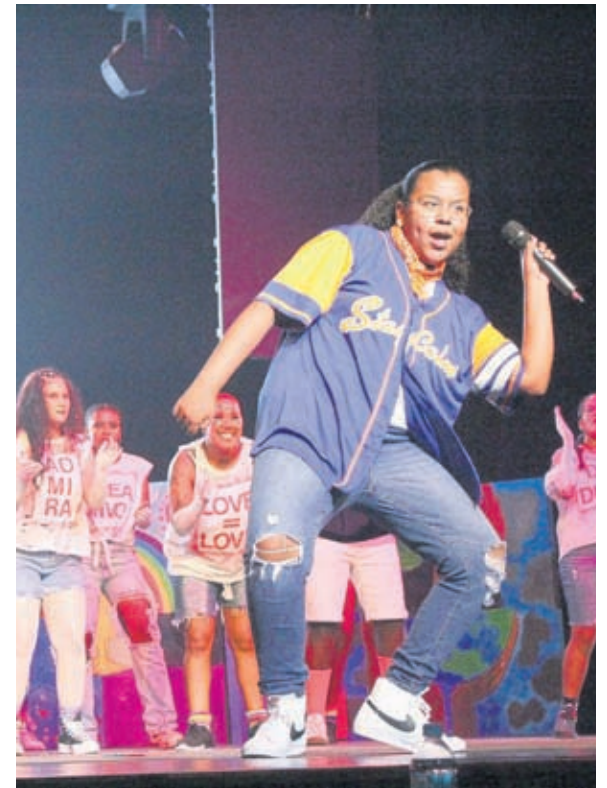
Fourth place (BMT) Zef Kerr & Brandon Kerr.

Third place Guicel Krozendijk.

Second place Gonzalez Duo: Alakina Gonzalez Lujan and Alejandro Gonzalez Lujan.

First place No Image Dance Crew; Shäindra Ashby, Shantal Arzuza Avila, Arzuliane Arzuza Avila, Dinaly Yarzagaray, Alysa Brete.

The Department of Culture thanks and congratulates all schools, teachers, guides, parents and youth for their great participation. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Clothes lines
- 5 Took a part
- 10 Fix copy
- 11 Slate without proof
- 12 Visitor to Siam
- 13 Put aboard, as cargo
- 14 Features of some 1950s autos
- 16 Cartel bosses
- 20 Strict
- 23 Drake's music
- 24 States
- 25 Push rudely
- 27 Remain unused
- 28 Inclined
- 29 Spirits for fizzes
- 32 Refuse receptacles
- 36 Crop pest
- 39 Falco of TV
- 40 Passes, as a law
- 41 Singer Fitzgerald
- 42 Loser to Truman
- 43 Russian refusal

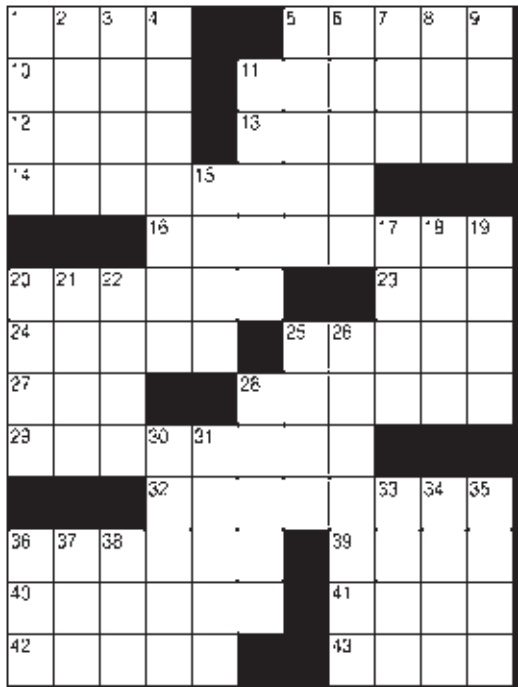
DOWN

- 1 Warm up
- 2 Writer
- 3 Short skirt
- 4 Over-zealous fan
- 5 Next to
- 6 Brooch part
- 7 Lasso of TV
- 8 Swelled head
- 9 Bear's lair
- 11 Flared dress
- 15 Evergreen trees
- 17 Magnetic metal
- 18 Church area



Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 19 Went fast | 31 Like hurricane weather |
| 20 Lip | 33 Without basis |
| 21 Wicked House | 34 Khar-toum's river |
| 22 White power | 35 Place at the table |
| 25 Dis-patched | 36 Went ahead |
| 26 Former star | 37 Early hour |
| 28 Shopping aids | 38 Cornfield cry |
| 30 Draw out | |



11-17

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

C N J N V L U W V H W F S H W R I S
U A I R W D H R O W C O H T O N V A V
C N R O A C F J H Q W G I H O H Q N G K V
V N N C K L W K A R R K H

— H V U G C V J G S D H

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AMERICANS WILL PUT UP WITH ANYTHING PROVIDED IT DOESN'T BLOCK TRAFFIC — DAN RATHER

Rising food costs take a bite out of Thanksgiving dinner

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

In early November, Hays Culbreth's mother sent a poll to a few family members. She said she could only afford to make two sides for their group of 15 this Thanksgiving and asked them each to vote for their favorites.

Culbreth guesses green beans and macaroni and cheese will make the cut, but his favorite sweet potato casserole with a brown sugar crust will not. "Talk about Thanksgiving being ruined," joked Culbreth, 27, a financial planner from Knoxville, Tennessee.

Americans are bracing for a costly Thanksgiving this year, with double-digit percent increases in the price of turkey, potatoes, stuffing, canned pumpkin and other staples. The U.S. government estimates food prices will be up 9.5% to 10.5% this year; historically, they've risen only 2% annually. Lower production and higher costs for labor, transportation and items are part of the reason; disease, rough weather and the war in Ukraine are also contributors.

"This really isn't a shortage thing. This is tighter supplies with some pretty good reasons for it," said David Anderson, a professor and agricultural economist at Texas A&M.

Wholesale turkey prices are at record highs after a difficult year for U.S. flocks. A particularly deadly strain of avian flu first reported in February on an Indiana turkey farm has wiped out 49 million turkeys and other poultry in 46 states this year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.



Frozen turkeys are displayed at a supermarket in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

As a result, U.S. turkey supplies per capita are at their lowest level since 1986, said Mark Jordan, the executive director of Jonesboro, Arkansas-based Leap Market Analytics. Jordan predicts the wholesale price of a frozen, 8-16 pound turkey hen the type typically purchased for Thanksgiving will hit \$1.77 per pound in November, up 28% from the same month last year. Still, there will be plenty of whole birds for Thanksgiving tables, Jordan said. Companies have been shifting a higher percentage of birds into the whole turkey market for the last few years to take advantage of the consistent holiday demand.

And not every producer was equally affected. Butterball which supplies around one-third of Thanksgiving turkeys said avian flu impacted only about 1% of its production because of security measures it put in place after the last big bout of flu in 2015. But it could be harder for shoppers to find turkey breasts or other cuts, Jordan said. And higher ham

prices are giving cooks fewer cheap alternatives, he said. Avian flu also pushed egg prices into record territory, Anderson said. In the second week of November, a dozen Grade A eggs were selling for an average of \$2.28, more than double the price from the prior year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Egg prices would have been higher even without the flu, Anderson said, because of the rising cost of the corn and soybean meal used for chicken feed. Ukraine is normally a major exporter of corn, and the loss of that supply has caused global prices to soar. Add that to rising prices for canned pumpkin a 30-ounce can is up 17% from last year, according to market researcher Datasemby and it's clear Thanksgiving dessert will be costlier too.

Nestle-owned Libby which produces 85% of the world's canned pumpkin said pumpkin harvests were in line with previous years, but it had to compensate for higher labor, transportation, fuel and energy costs.

Plan to fill up on sides? That will also cost you. A 16-ounce box of stuffing costs 14% more than last year, Datasemby said. And a 5-pound bag of Russet potatoes averaged \$3.26 the second week of November, or 45.5% higher than a year ago. □

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24/7



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Forest Service shows a bull trout in the Little Lost River in Idaho.

Associated Press

U.S., Trout Unlimited eye stream restoration on forest lands

KEITH RIDLER

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — U.S. officials on Wednesday announced a five-year, \$40 million agreement with the conservation group Trout Unlimited to improve watersheds on national forests and grasslands that contain key habitat for trout and salmon.

The U.S. Forest Service said Wednesday the agreement includes cleaning up abandoned mines, removing barriers to fish passage and other stream habitat improvements.

The agency said that more than 40% of trout streams in the U.S. flow through nearly 200 million acres of national forests and grasslands. "Our agreement with Trout Unlimited continues our joint success as stewards of national forests and grasslands," Forest Service Chief Randy Moore said in a statement. "Our partnership is not just about cleaning a stream or increasing fish population.

It's life sustaining work that is as vital to aquatic species as it is to people and communities. When our natural resources are healthy, we are healthy as a nation and as individuals."

The agency said the money for the five-year National Watershed and Aquatic Restoration Initiative comes from the \$1 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed by President Joe Biden last year. □

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Steve Martin, Harry Bliss team up on 'Number One Is Walking'

By HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Steve Martin has this funny theory about artists and careers, spelled out with comic timing.

"You kind of can always tell if someone hits a wall by their haircut," he says.

Pause.

"And I'll explain what I mean."

Pause.

"Like if someone was doing really, really well in the '70s, they keep their '70s haircut. If they did well in the '80s, if they keep their '80s haircut. If they're moving along, their haircut changes."

Pause.

"Now, I've had the same haircut forever."

And there goes the theory. If Martin's parted white hair its evolution more a matter of age than of style — reflected his creative choices, it would have been an ongoing fashion show. Few contemporary writer-performers have succeeded in so many art forms: standup comedy, movie acting, television acting, playwriting, novel writing, with time made throughout for banjo playing. His passions now include cartoon captions, honed through a collaboration with the New Yorker cartoonist Harry Bliss, brought together at the recommendation of mutual friend and New Yorker art editor Françoise Mouly. "She calls me and says that



Harry Bliss, left, and Steve Martin pose for a portrait to promote the book "Number One Is Walking: My Life in the Movies and Other Diversions" on Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

she was having dinner with Steve Martin and he had some cartoon ideas and was I interested in drawing a couple of them up," Bliss said. "We started emailing back and forth and he sent me a couple of ideas one I remember was about a dog panhandling. And we both kind of laughed. There was that initial spark. It was fun." Martin and Bliss spoke recently during an afternoon interview in midtown Manhattan, across the street from the New York Public Library's main branch. Friendly for the past few years "five years ago" was Martin's favorite response when asked for

any kind of timeline they have formed a professional kinship built upon Martin's words, Bliss' images and a shared love for the satire and well-populated illustrations of Mad magazine. They first worked together on the bestselling "A Wealth of Pigeons," published in 2020, and now have completed "Number One Is Walking." The title is the premise for the kind of Hollywood joke Martin has mastered. The words refer to a given actor's status on set (at least some sets): "Number one is walking," an assistant director might say to let others know of the lead ac-

tor's whereabouts. Martin was "Number One" in "The Jerk," "Bowfinger," "Bringing Down the House" and others, only to be knocked back when he co-starred with Meryl Streep and Alec Baldwin in "It's Complicated." "Number three is walking," he heard. Bliss says his greatest challenge for the book was to "put the fan away, and just listen to Steve tell the story." The first half of "Number One Is Walking" is a meta-movie scrapbook, with Bliss' sketches accompanying Martin's memories of his film career and illustrating the making of the book. A strip might begin with

Bliss asking Martin about a specific project, such as "Roxanne," or make light of which of the two is more famous.

"So, Harry, how did you get started cartooning?" Martin is seen asking on one panel, looking out dispassionately from a loveseat, with Bliss in a wicker chair at his side.

"Well, I ..." says Bliss, rising eagerly from his seat.

"That reminds me," Martin interrupts, "of when I did the movie 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.'"

Martin shares memories of such late friends as Carl Reiner, Charles Grodin and Robin Williams. He offers a vivid account of meeting Mike Nichols, the original director for "The Jerk" (Reiner ended up with the job) and later his director when Martin and Williams starred in a 1988 stage production of "Waiting for Godot." Nichols, Martin explained during the interview, was always the wittiest man in any gathering, "the Mike Nichols in the room, the number one wit."

"I was very nervous to meet Mike Nichols," he recalled. "And we're going to walk to dinner."

And it's summer. And it's New York, so we're outside and it's warm and I have no idea what to say to him."

"So I say, 'Wow, this weather is great.' And he said, 'Yes, isn't it ironic,'" Martin continued. □

Mindy Kaling to be honored by Producers Guild for TV change



Mindy Kaling arrives at the 29th annual ELLE Women in Hollywood Celebration in Los Angeles on Oct. 17, 2022.

Associated Press

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mindy Kaling is set to receive the Norman Lear Achievement Award from the Producers Guild of America at the group's awards show in February. "Comedy can break boundaries and push culture forward; Mindy Kaling's immense contributions to the television comedy landscape are prime examples of this truth," said PGA presidents Stephanie Allain and Donald De Line in a statement Wednesday. "It's her work

producing series from diverse female perspectives that is reshaping the industry. From 'The Mindy Project' to 'Never Have I Ever' to 'The Sex Lives of College Girls,' Kaling has proven just how much audiences have been craving funny, relatable stories about characters we've rarely (seen) as television protagonists. "Kaling got her first big break when she was hired to join the writing staff of 'The Office.'" She was only 24 and the only woman on the eight-person team and would go

on to write, produce and direct episodes, earning Emmy nominations along the way. "To be included in this prestigious group of past recipients is humbling, and I'm so grateful to the Producers Guild for this recognition," Kaling said in a statement. Previous honorees include Amy Sherman-Palladino, Ryan Murphy, Shonda Rhimes and Lorne Michaels.

The 34th Producers Guild Awards will be held on Feb. 25 at the Beverly Hilton, in Beverly Hills, California. □

LPGA quietly setting a standard for women's sports

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

All anyone seems to talk about is money in this disruptive year of golf, and the LPGA Tour should not be left out of the conversation.

Only this is cause for celebration, not division.

The talent pool is as deep as it has been in years. A season that concludes this week at the CME Group Tour Championship already has produced 26 winners in 31 tournaments, 11 of whom won for the first time on the LPGA Tour. Winners came from 14 countries. Americans led the way for the second straight year with eight titles.

But this week is all about money, and for good reason. The winner from the 60-player field at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Florida, gets \$2 million, the richest prize ever in women's golf. That's more than the total prize fund of 15 tournaments on the LPGA Tour schedule, and it's nearly 10 times as much as the highest base salary in the WNBA.

At least six players are assured of going over \$2 million for the year, which is twice as many as the previous record set in 2019 and 2014. Hye-Jin Choi, an LPGA rookie from South Korea, already has topped \$2



Nelly Korda watches her tee shot on the 18th hole during the final round of the LPGA Pelican Women's Championship golf tournament at Pelican Golf Club, Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022, in Belleair, Fla.

million without winning a tournament.

The LPGA has never had more than 17 players make more than \$1 million in one season, a record established in 2017. This year, at least 24 players will make seven figures.

All the more remarkable is that it comes two years after the LPGA Tour made it through the COVID-19 pandemic a credit to former Commissioner Mike Whan for building up the reserves and has come out stronger than ever.

Commissioner Mollie Marcoux Samaan on Friday will announce a 2023 schedule that will push the total prize money to more than \$100 million for the first time.

The increase is incremental the total purse was a record \$93.5 million this year for 32 tournaments and comes mainly from the biggest events.

But it's a benchmark number.

"And the fact the LPGA has done it all on its own is even more remarkable," said Dottie Pepper, who retired

from the LPGA Tour with 17 wins and two majors and now works as a CBS golf analyst. Her rookie season was 1988, when the total prize fund for the year was just under \$10 million. That's what the U.S. Women's Open purse was this year. Pepper still remembers when the Centel Classic began in 1990 as the first \$1 million purse for a regular LPGA Tour event. "Six digits for a payout got your attention," she said.

And there were leaner times. "I remember in 1988

we had the Greater Washington Open a week after the U.S. Open, which was in Baltimore," she said. "On Friday afternoon of the Open, there was a note in the locker room that the money was put in escrow because they were not sure if the tournament was going to happen. They couldn't say if they would have a purse."

She headed home. The prize money went from \$300,000 to \$225,000, with the winner's share for Ayako Okamoto at a whopping \$33,750.

Nothing ever comes easily for the LPGA, and it's been that way since the largest and most successful women's sports league began in 1950. The league has done it alone, without any outside help from the men's league.

The late Mickey Wright, who carried women's golf with a game considered the greatest in LPGA history, once spoke about players effectively running the entire tour, from setting up the courses to administering the rules.

One of the founders, the late Marilyn Smith, told of going to a boxing match with Shirley Spork in one city, where they were to climb into the ring between rounds and speak to the crowd. □

World Cup players get protection from social media abuse

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — FIFA and the global soccer players union have launched a moderation service aimed at protecting World Cup players from abuse on social media during the tournament.

FIFA said Wednesday that the more than 830 players in Qatar can access a "dedicated monitoring, reporting and moderation service" that aims to filter hate speech targeted at them.

The World Cup starts Sunday, just days after Twitter fired a swath of contractors working on content moderation teams that were tracking hate and trying to

enforce rules against harmful posts. Twitter was not mentioned in the FIFA news release providing details of the project, which was first announced in June and is conducted together with players union FIFPRO.

"Teams, players and other individual participants will also be able to opt-in to a moderation service that will instantly hide abusive and offensive comments on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, preventing them from being seen by the recipient and their followers," soccer's world body said. The project will monitor social media accounts of all World Cup participants and

report discrimination and threats "to social networks and law authorities for real-world action against those who break rules," FIFA said. The scope of hate speech aimed at soccer players was detailed by FIFA in June from research during the previous year at later stages of the European Championship and African Cup of Nations.

It said half of all those players received some kind of discriminatory abuse and most of that from their home country. FIFA said then that "homophobic and racist comments accounted for nearly 80% of the abuse."

Spain striker Alvaro Morata received death threats online after missing a great

chance against Poland during last year's European Championship. □



The Twitter logo is seen on a cell phone, Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

Washington's Riverboat Ron knocks off another unbeaten team

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

Ron Rivera and Washington are making a habit of shocking undefeated teams. For the second time in three seasons, Rivera took a Washington team with a losing record on the road to hand an undefeated team its first loss of the season. The Commanders, who entered the game with a 4-5 record, went to Philadelphia and handed the Eagles their first loss following an 8-0 start. That 32-21 victory Monday night came two years after Rivera lead a 4-7 Washington team to a 23-17 victory at 11-0 Pittsburgh. Only two of the other 29 teams in the Super Bowl era that started a season 8-0 or better lost their first game

at home to a team with a losing record, with Houston (3-5) beating Cincinnati (8-0) in 2015 and the Rams (4-6) doing it at San Francisco (10-0) in 1990.

Five other teams that started 8-0 or better lost their first game to a team with a losing record on the road. Rivera became the second coach in the Super Bowl era to hand two teams that started 8-0 or better their first loss. Don Coryell also did it, leading the Cardinals over the 8-0 Cowboys in 1977 and the Chargers over the 11-0 Dolphins in 1984.

FIELD DAY

Chicago's Justin Fields is on a record-setting stretch in his first full season as starter. Fields has rushed for 555 yards in the last five games



Washington Commanders head coach Ron Rivera celebrates after an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Monday, Nov. 14, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

the most for any QB in a five-game span in the Super Bowl era. He needs just 458 yards rushing over the final seven games to break Lamar Jackson's single-

season record for quarterbacks of 1,206 set in 2019. Fields threw for 167 yards and two TDs and ran for 147 yards and two TDs in a loss to Detroit on Sunday,

becoming the second player in NFL history with at least 100 yards and two TDs on the ground and through the air in the same game. The only other player to do it was Colin Kaepernick in the playoffs following the 2012 season against Green Bay.

Fields is the fifth player in the Super Bowl era with at least one TD pass and one TD run in four straight games. He can tie Kyler Murray's record from 2020 of doing it in five straight on Sunday at Atlanta.

His work on the ground has helped the Bears become the first team in NFL history to rush for at least 225 yards in five straight games.

Fields' production hasn't meant success for the Bears, who have lost the last three games. They are the first team to lose three straight while scoring at least 29 points in each game in NFL history.

JUMPING JEFFERSON

Minnesota's Justin Jefferson delivered one of the greatest catches in NFL history with his one-handed grab against Buffalo on fourth-and-18 on Sunday.

The catch had a 28.8% completion probability, according to NFL NextGen stats, but Jefferson has made a habit out of making improbable grabs.

He had nine catches on Sunday with a completion probability of less than 50% three more than any other player has had in a game in the NGS era that dates back to 2015.

Since entering the league in 2020, Jefferson has a league-high 54 catches with a sub-50% completion probability.

Jefferson finished with 10 catches for a career-high 193 yards and one TD. His 20 games with at least 100 yards receiving are the most ever for a player in his first three years, surpassing Randy Moss and Odell Beckham Jr.

Jefferson, who has 4,076 receiving yards in 42 career games, tied Lance Alworth and Beckham for the fewest games needed to reach 4,000 yards receiving. □

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